

wherein upon zooming from the short focal length extremity to the long focal length extremity, at least said negative first lens group and said positive second lens group are moved;

wherein a diaphragm is provided on the object side of said positive second lens group, and moves integrally therewith; and

wherein said zoom lens system satisfies the following conditions:

$$0.25 < R1/D1 < 0.55$$

$$0.25 < f2/TL < 0.45$$

wherein

R1 designates the radius of curvature of the image-side surface of said negative meniscus lens element, which constitutes said negative first lens group;

D1 designates the distance between said negative first lens group and said positive second lens group at the short focal length extremity;

f2 designates the focal length of said positive second lens group; and

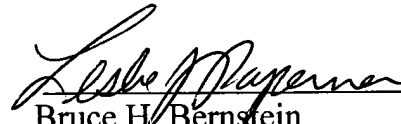
TL designates the distance along the optical axis from the most object-side surface of said negative first lens group to the most image-side surface of said positive third lens group, at the short focal length extremity.

### REMARKS

By the above amendment, claim 1 has been amended to insert the claim number.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nobutaka MINEFUJI

  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

*Reg 16  
33,329*

July 7, 2003  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191